



## Envision Arlington Standing Committee

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021  
Time: 7:30 - 9:00 PM  
Location: Zoom

### Minutes

Voting members: Greg Christiana, Alex Bagnall, Scott Lever, Michael Brownstein, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Juli Brazile

Other attendees: Elizabeth Dray, Gina Sonder, Len Diggins

#### 1. Introductions

Juli opened with the statement from Governor Baker. There were no objections to recording the meeting, so recording has been enabled.

Elizabeth Dray was interested in discussing new business later in the agenda.

Gina Sonder, from Emergency Arlington, is interested in discussing an article for Climate Emergency.

#### 2. Review Minutes

##### a. December 9, 2020 Minutes

Need to add Alex Bagnall as an attendee.

Motion by Greg to accept minutes with above edit. Seconded. Vote passes unanimously.

##### b. January 13, 2021 Minutes

Elisabeth points out that "Elisabeth Dray" is misspelled, should be "z".

Under Fiscal Resources Task Group:

Sandy Poehler -> Pooler

dangling "i." at end of section

Agenda item 3: "Discuss upcoming February..."

change: Town Council -> Town Counsel

change: Financial Committee -> Finance Committee

change "did not appreciate" -> "did not agree with"

Agenda item 6: last sentence:

"Elisabeth volunteered to post flyers around town" -> add "and Elisabeth volunteered to help develop a marketing strategy"

Motion by Greg to accept minutes with above edits. Seconded. Vote passes unanimously.

c. January 20, 2021 Minutes

Motion by Elisabeth to accept minutes as drafted. Seconded. Vote passes unanimously.

d. February 10, 2021 Minutes

3. Strike incomplete sentence "Greg suggests that Standing Committee".  
"Scott asked whether the meeting would be an open meeting, and Juli confirmed that" (requires punctuation)

Motion by Juli to accept minutes with above edits. Seconded. Vote passes unanimously.

3. Task Group Updates

Michael will have his first meeting with the Police Civilian Review Board Study Group on Thursday at 5pm.

4. Discuss Candidate's Night support

Alex discussed Town Meeting Candidate Night and Town Meeting Candidate Night. Looking to have a test run the week before to test breakout rooms.

Elizabeth asked what it would take to allow candidates to share a statement. She volunteered to help with that.

Elisabeth worked on the doc (PDF) with candidate statements, but it's much more efficient if we can do that entirely by email.

Juli explained that the Town has high standards for hosting information about candidates to ensure fairness. Hosting on the League of Women Voters' website is easier to approve.

Need to get a link to a Google Form and email it to Town Meeting candidates. Elisabeth will reach out to Sue to put this together quickly.

Scott shared that residents of Precincts 8 and 10 were interested in an all-town Town Meeting precinct meeting best-practices meeting, and the Standing Committee could maybe help organize. Elisabeth asked for clarification about whether this would be an annual meeting, which Scott confirmed. The concept is for Envision Arlington to hold an annual informational meeting, but not to manage details of individual precinct meetings.

Greg suggested that with everyone using Zoom during the pandemic, there's an opportunity to consider doing more with precinct meetings over Zoom, e.g. with an Envision Arlington Zoom account that could be lent out for precinct meetings.

Elizabeth mentioned an article that she's working on to outfit Town meeting rooms with Zoom equipment to offer video-conferencing even when in-person meetings resume.

5. Discussion on the Annual Town Survey

Scott gave an update on the Survey which closed this week. He gave an interview with the Advocate. Hoping to get over 3000 responses, which we were close to days ago. He'll be working with Kelly to prepare a report for Town Meeting.

6. Discuss upcoming Advisory Board Meeting and EA governance

Greg gave an update on the scheduling for the meeting which we're planning to schedule for late March. Kristen DeFrancisco has shared a Doodle poll with attendees, outside of the Standing Committee.

Michael asked if we could iterate on the agenda in a Google Doc.

Greg suggested that we could work through a Google Doc initially, then meet off-cycle to finalize the agenda over Zoom.

Len points out that we should consider discussing with Town Counsel about use of a Google Doc with respect to Open Meeting Law.

Scott suggests that he and Greg meet to develop a first draft of the agenda to be shared with the rest of the Standing Committee. He shared some of initial ideas for the agenda, such as the structure of Task Groups.

Juli pointed out we should discuss how to select a chair or co-chairs.

Elisabeth would like to discuss with the Board how a newly formed Governance Task Group could work most effectively.

Len has liked the "forward thinking" approach of Vision 2020 since the 1990s, and would like to see what feedback the Advisory Board will have (on doing more long-term visioning?)

7. Budget update

No update.

8. New Business

Elizabeth discussed that tomorrow at 7:30pm will be a campaign kick-off for Kelda Fontenot.

Elizabeth asked whether the one open seat on the Standing Committee has been appointed by the Town Manager. The Town Manager has not appointed that seat, but has at least two applications. Elizabeth says that despite having applied for the position last October she has yet to be contacted by the Town Manager or had any response from him.

Elizabeth asked whether Juli was currently considered a voting member since stepping down as chair given her recent application to the Town Manager for the open seat on the Standing Committee. Juli thinks she is, but the situation is not clear because of our governance structure.

Elizabeth voiced interest in working on a Town Governance working group.

Gina asked for the support of Envision Arlington with the following statement:

"Emergency Arlington is a local coalition of climate organizations and individuals concerned with our warming planet as an existential threat. While hosting a series of public events, the group's main focus is to encourage the Town of Arlington to declare a Climate Emergency and take suitable steps consistent with that declaration. Emergency Arlington has a Climate Emergency Declaration Article #91 with a Resolution on the 2021 Town Warrant, to be be voted on at the annual Town Meeting in late April. <http://emergencyarlington.org>"

Scott suggested that the Standing Committee review the materials and discuss at our next meeting.

Len suggested raising with the Advisory Committee and Town Counsel the appropriateness of the Standing Committee giving a platform for endorsements of candidates or Warrant articles.

Juli clarified that a Town committee cannot endorse a candidate, but can endorse a ballot question if it's in the committee's scope.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.